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Journal - [illegible] of Legislative Counsel
Monday - [illegible] ruary 1970

STAT 6. ([redacted] - GLC) Tried to see Steve Wexler, on the staff of the Educati[illegible] Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, regarding the testimony of State Department witnesses on the Foreign Service Corps (S. 939). Wexler was involved in the floor debate on the secondary education bill but I was able to obtain a copy of the transcript involved from his staff. Excerpts of pertinent parts are being forwarded to the Director of Personnel and the Cover Division.

STAT 7. ([redacted] - GLC) In response to his request, I provided Bill Woodruff, on the staff of the Senate Appropriations Committee, with a copy of FMSAC's blind commentary on the Richard Lyons' column in the New York Times on the Soviet satellite destroyer. I also provided Woodruff with a copy of the blind memorandum on [redacted] used by the Director in briefing Senator Fulbright. Woodruff appreciated having both of these items.

25X1C

Woodruff said he would be available to visit the Agency on Thursday, 12 February, along with Ralph Preston for a briefing on Agency programs. I asked him to stay on for lunch.

STAT 8. ([redacted] - GLC) In response to his request, I provided Ed Braswell, on the staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee, a copy of the FMSAC commentary on the Richard Lyons' column in the New York Times on the Soviet destroyer. I also left with Braswell a copy of the blind memorandum on the [redacted] which was used by the Director in briefing Senator Fulbright.

25X1C

STAT 9. ([redacted] - GLC) Jack Leahy, in the Legislative Liaison office in the State Department, called to say that,during his confirmations hearing in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today, Ambassador-designate to Ceylon, Robert Strauz-Hupe was queried extensively by Senator Fulbright regarding his past affiliation with the Foreign Research Institute of the University of Pennsylvania. Fulbright asked Strauz-Hupe whether the Institute had received funds from CIA or had ever acted as a front for CIA. The witness replied in the negative at least as far as his knowledge was concerned. Mr. Leahy thought we would be interested in this. [redacted] of the DDP, and [redacted] of the DDI, have been advised.

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[redacted]

JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

cc:
ER O/DDCI
DDI DDS
DDS&T
EA/DDP
ORRB

25X1A [redacted]

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Comments on Soviet Satellite Destroyer
Article in the New York Times dated
February 6, 1970

The following are selected paragraphs from the referenced New York Times with corresponding comments.

"American and British space experts believe that the Soviet Union has built and successfully tested a satellite capable of intercepting and destroying other orbiting spacecraft."

We are not sure of the success nor is there any evidence of a destruct mechanism. Since the vehicles demonstrate a very close, high speed intercept the addition of a appropriate warhead could be done if that is the Soviet intent.

"From tracking data gathered on Soviet spacecraft and from secret intelligence reports, these experts have deduced that 16 months ago the Russians launched an "interceptor-inspector-destroyer" satellite, officially named Cosmos 248, which homed in on two other members of the Cosmos class, 249 and 252, and somehow destroyed them."

[redacted] 25X1B

"Radars of the United States Air Force, which track Soviet satellites almost from the moment they leave their launching pads, originally saw the two Cosmos target satellites and their carrier rockets in orbit. According to officially published reports, the radars later detected 25 pieces of each spacecraft, indicating that an explosion had occurred."

[redacted] 25X1B

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"The experts noted that the explosions, which could have been caused by small onboard missiles with conventional warheads such as the Sidewinder type, occurred about the time that the target spacecraft were near Cosmos 248, which is still circling the earth."

"An inspector-interceptor satellite would be launched into an orbit similar to that of the spacecraft to be investigated. It would be maneuvered on ground command, as Cosmos 248 was believed to have been, to make minor course changes before a rendezvous with the target. When they met, it would inspect the target satellite with television cameras and radiation detectors, and transmit the data to ground stations."

"Sources in the aerospace industry say, however, that a year before the Cosmos 248 flight the American intelligence networks knew that the Russians were working on a satellite destroyer."

"'Cosmos 248 was approached by the two spacecraft, which were maneuvered into a similar orbit and then disintegrated,' he added. 'From this it is not unreasonable to assume that the Russians have added a destruction capability, in addition to interceptions.'"

Although a type A command system is used on these satellites the actual maneuvers are probably pre-programmed. The simple nature of this command system is such as to prohibit the insertion of complete maneuvering commands. The commands probably initiate propulsion events.

The program which led to 248, 249 and 252 began almost exactly one year earlier.

Cosmos 217	24 Apr 1968
Cosmos 209	22 Mar 1968
Cosmos 198	27 Dec 1967
Cosmos 185	27 Oct 1967

Mr. Perry seems to have the facts right - contrary to the New York Times article.

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Group 1
downgrading and declassification

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25X1B

"One myst[illegible] element of the rendezvous a[illegible]struction of the satellites [illegible]n the second blew up. Acc[illegible]ng to information publishe[illegible] the National Aeronautics a[illegible]pace Administration that was [illegible]ained from the Air Force Ae[illegible]ce Defense Command, Cosm[illegible]249 blew up within a day or s[illegible] its launching, Oct. 20, 1968. [illegible]t data on the destruction of Cosmos 252 are less specific."

"'The date that it did blow up is still classified,' said a spokesman for the Aerospace Defense Command at Ent Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo. All data on Soviet space launchings are sent there for correlation and analysis."

"But information published by NASA here indicates that the explosion took place within two weeks of the launching of Cosmos 252, on Nov. 1, 1968. Cosmos 248 was launched Oct. 19 of that year."

[redacted]

[illegible]For this reason there is an official reluctance to talk about this event.

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NEW YORK TIMES DATE 2/6/69 PAGE

Soviet Satellite Destroyer Is Believed to Be in Orbit

Cosmos 248, Launched in 1968, Reported to Have Intercepted 2 Craft in Tests —Similar U.S. System Doubted

By RICHARD D. LYONS

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 — American and British space experts believe that the Soviet Union has built and successfully tested a satellite capable of intercepting and destroying other orbiting spacecraft.

From tracking data gathered on Soviet spacecraft and from secret intelligence reports, these experts have deduced that 16 months ago the Russians launched an "interceptor-inspector-destroyer" satellite, officially named Cosmos 248, which homed in on two other members of the Cosmos class, 249 and 252, and somehow destroyed them.

The United States Air Force prepared plans for such a satellite 11 years ago but the United States is not believed to have such an orbital attack system in operation.

The Air Force does have some Thor missiles in the Pacific that are capable of being fired at satellites. They have the disadvantage, however, of a limited range, perhaps 150 miles. Thus, for the rockets to reach their targets, the targets would have to fly directly above the missile sites, or quite near them.

This means that an effective defense against satellites built on the ground would have to have many missile-launching sites throughout the world. In addition, such ground-based missiles would need a long range since it would be possible to maneuver a satellite into orbits 1,000 miles or more above the earth.

Radars of the United States Air Force, which track Soviet satellites almost from the moment they leave their launching pads, originally saw the two Cosmos target satellites and their carrier rockets in orbit. According to officially published reports, the radars later detected 25 pieces of each spacecraft, indicating that an explosion had occurred.

The experts noted that the explosions, which could have been caused by small onboard missiles with conventional warheads such as the Sidewinder type, occurred about the time that the target spacecraft were near Cosmos 248, which is still circling the earth.

For more than a year, it is said, the Russians successfully masked the tests by conducting them while public attention and private radars were focused on the United States' first three-man flight, Apollo 7, and on the Soyuz 3 rendezvous mission, which was the Soviet Union's first manned flight in 18 months. Both flights took place in October, 1968.

The possibility that such an orbital satellite-destroyer system could be developed was believed to have arisen at the talks on limiting strategic arms held by the United States and the Soviet Union in Helsinki, Finland, late last year. According to unconfirmed reports, the preliminary discussions included a suggestion for agreement that neither country would interfere with the other's satellites.

When the United States Air Force prepared its plan 11 years ago, the orbital attack system was given the code name Saint, a contraction of "satellite inspection and interception satellite." When research and development started a decade ago, the Radio Corporation of America was given the role of prime contractor.

Blueprints for a satellite that could destroy, as well as intercept and inspect, were drawn up earlier but it is believed that they have been shelved. Technical experts in the aerospace industry, which would develop a system against satellites on Defense Department orders, believe that the Air Force, under a different code name, has revived the interception and inspection program, without a destroyer capability.

An inspector-interceptor satellite would be launched into an orbit similar to that of the spacecraft to be investigated. It would be maneuvered on ground command, as Cosmos 248 was believed to have been, to make minor course changes before a rendezvous with the target. When they met, it would inspect the target satellite with television cameras and radiation detectors, and transmit the data to ground stations.

Intense secrecy surrounds both American and Soviet military space efforts. For example, neither side even reveals how much it spends on military satellites much less where the money goes.

Sources in the aerospace industry say, however, that a year before the Cosmos 248 flight the American intelligence networks knew that the Russians were working on a satellite destroyer.

One person who has discussed the Soviet program openly and has tried to call attention to it is Geoffrey E. Perry, the British space expert who first announced in 1966 that the Russians had been launching military spacecraft from a secret new base at Plesetsk, south of Archangel in northern European Russia. Mr. Perry is apparently the first person not connected with allied intelligence services to have detected the nature of the Soviet flights, as well as that of the Plesetsk base.

Deductions From Data

Mr. Perry is the headmaster of the grammar school in Kettering, Northamptonshire, where students used war surplus radio equipment to track the satellites launched from the base, which was then unknown. The collected data on the orbital paths was fed to a computer and the latitude and longitude were subsequently determined.

Mr. Perry said in a telephone interview from his home that flights "suggest that the Russians have developed an interceptor satellite."

"Cosmos 248 was approached by the two spacecraft, which were maneuvered into a similar oribt and then disintegrated," he added. "From this it is not unreasonable to assume that the Russians have added a destruction capability, in addition to interceptions."

[illegible] the rendezvous and destruction of the satellites is when the second blew up. According to National Aeronautics and Space Administration that was obtained from the Air Force Aerospace Defense Command, Cosmos 249 blew up within a day or so of its launching, Oct. 20, 1968, but data on the destruction of Cosmos 252 are less specific.

"The date that it did blow up is still classified," said a spokesman for the Aerospace Defense Command at Ent Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo. All data on Soviet space launchings are sent there for correlation and analysis.

A 'New Wrinkle' Discerned

But information published by NASA here indicates that the explosion took place within two weeks of the launching of Cosmos 252, on Nov. 1, 1968. Cosmos 248 was launched Oct. 19 of that year.

Announcements from Moscow about the flights were even more sparse, with Tass, the Soviet press agency, merely stating that the mission was aimed at "gathering data for Russia's space program."

An American observer of the Soviet space effort described the Cosmos flights as "an interesting new wrinkle."

"It's certainly not a bad inference to assume that the Russians have such an interception and destruction capability," he continued. "There has been such a potential since the first days of space flight."

He cautioned against becoming alarmed over the Soviet flights "because there is no sign that either side is going to destroy the other's satellites."

"After all," he added, "the world is filled with weapons that are not being used."

But, he continued: "If I were a Russian military planner I would want such a system on the shelf, knowing that it would work."

A second American space expert, who also asked that his identity not be made public, was somewhat more pessimistic about Soviet antisatellite efforts, which he said first had been detected in 1967.

"I am concerned about this too," he said. He noted that an antisatellite system could be employed against American reconnaissance satellities that fly over the Soviet Union daily, eavesdropping on radar and communications and taking photographs.

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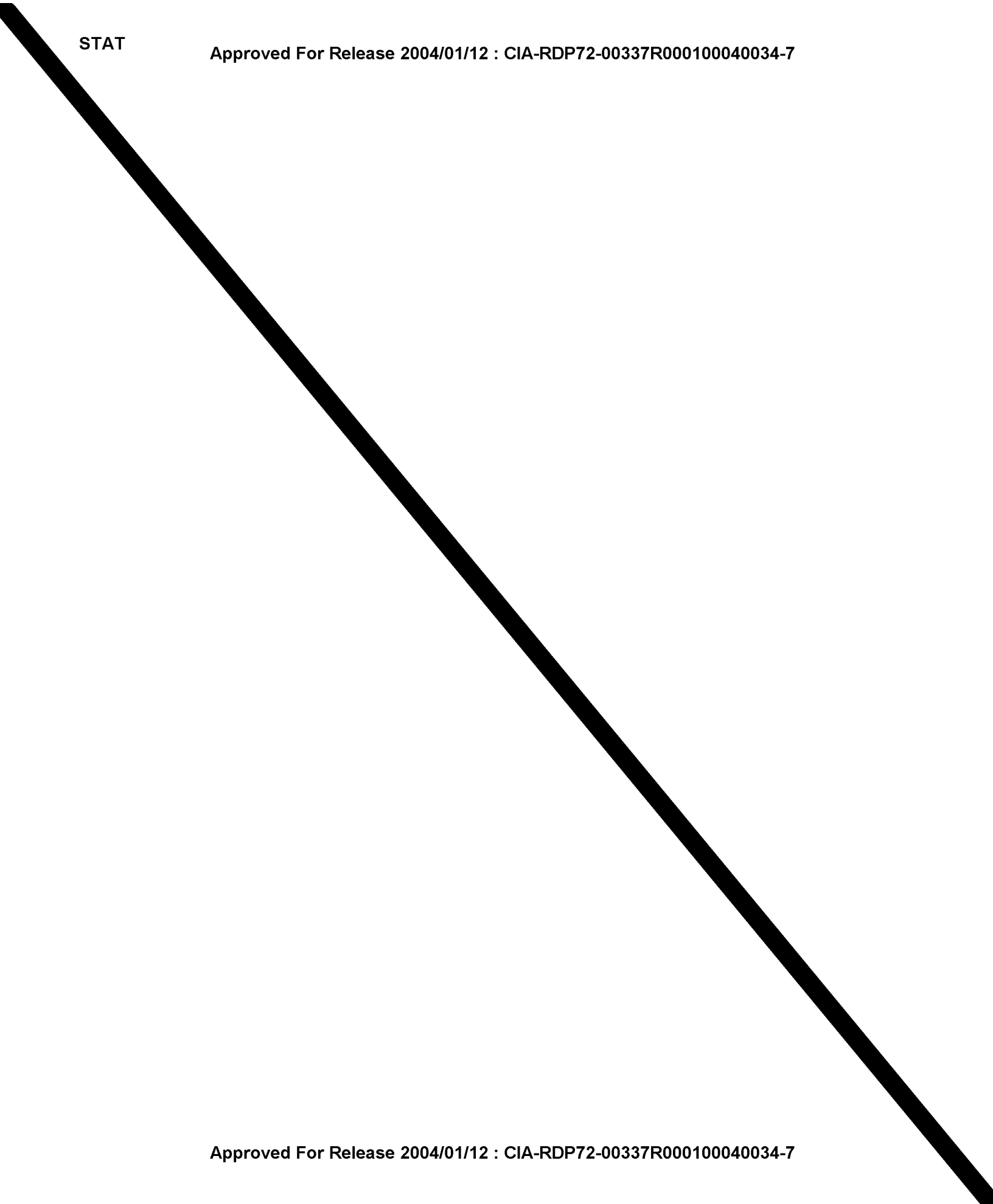

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